

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A candle extinguisher, comprising:

a unitary body of a thin-plate material, said thin-plate material being non-combustible or non-inflammable when exposed to the burning flame of a candle[[],];

said body having a ring-shaped part defining an inner space of said candle extinguisher and having an inner diameter at least slightly exceeding the outer diameter of a candle on which the candle extinguisher is to be positioned[[],];

said body having a plurality of flexible finger elements extending upwardly from said ring-shaped part, each of said flexible finger elements being integral with the ring-shaped part to form therewith a single, unitary piece, each of said flexible finger elements comprising a proximal part adjoining the ring-shaped part and a distal part spaced from the ring-shaped part[,];

said proximal parts extending substantially in coplanar relationship with said ring-shaped part and being bendable from said coplanar relation outwardly relative to said inner space defined by said ring-shaped part[,];

each of said distal parts being bent substantially perpendicularly relative to a respective proximal part and extending inwardly relative to said inner space defined by said ring-shaped part[,]; and

each of said distal parts having a length at least exceeding one half of the width of said inner space defined by said ring-shaped part.

2. (Currently Amended) The candle extinguisher according to claim 1, said ring-shaped part and said flexible finger elements being made from carbon steel of a thickness of 50 μ m-500 μ m.

3. (Previously Presented) The candle extinguisher according to claim 1, each of said proximal parts having a length at least approximately 2x the length of said distal parts.

4. (Previously Presented) The candle extinguisher according to claim 1, said proximal parts having substantially a rectangular configuration, the width of each of said proximal parts being at the most one half the length of said proximal part.

5. (Currently Amended) The candle extinguisher according to claim [[1]] 4, each of said distal parts ~~having the shape of~~ being shaped substantially as an isosceles triangle, [[the]] a base [[line]] of [[which is]] each triangle being congruent with the outermost end a distal edge of [[the]] a respective proximal part.

6. (Previously Presented) The candle extinguisher according to claim 1, said plurality being at least 3 and the most 30.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of producing [[a]] the candle extinguisher comprising a unitary body of a thin plate material, said thin plate material being non-combustible or non-inflammable when exposed to the burning flame of a candle,

~~said body having a ring-shaped part defining an inner space of said candle extinguisher and having an inner diameter at least slightly exceeding the outer diameter of a candle on which the candle extinguisher is to be positioned,~~

~~said body having a plurality of flexible finger elements extending upwardly from said ring-shaped part, each of said flexible finger elements comprising a proximal part and a distal part,~~

~~said proximal parts extending substantially in coplanar relationship with said ring-shaped part and being bendable from said coplanar relation outwardly relative to said inner space defined by said ring-shaped part,~~

~~each of said distal parts being bent substantially perpendicularly relative to a respective proximal part and extending inwardly relative to said inner space defined by said ring-shaped part, and~~

~~each of said distal parts having a length at least exceeding one half of the width of said inner space defined by said ring-shaped part,~~

of Claim 1, said method comprising: the steps of

cutting a blank from a thin-plate material, said blank including a bottom shape part constituting a web of said thin-plate material and a plurality of flexible finger elements extending to [[the]] one side from said web [[and]], each of said flexible finger elements being integral with the web to form therewith a single, unitary piece, each of said flexible finger elements further including an inner [[parts]] part and an outer part parts, the step of;

turning said blank into a cylindrical body having said web constituting said ring-shaped part and having said inner parts constituting said proximal parts and said outer parts constituting said distal parts[[,]]; and

bending said distal parts perpendicularly relative to said proximal parts.